last two years of the plan. The need for launching yet another new scheme and that too, in the last year of the Ninth Plan was, therefore, not felt.

Export of cotton

1198. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy formulated by Government with regard to export of cotton;

(b) whether Government have proposed to grant some financial relief to weavers in the country; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Export of cotton if free without any restrictions.

(b) and (c) Assistance to weavers are provided under various schemes of the Government. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme for Handloom weavers are a few such schemes.

Production of hand-woven cloth

1199. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of hand-woven cloth in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance given by Government to encourage Handloom Industries during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage Handloom Industries in tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The handloom industry being decentralised in nature, State-wise figures of production of cloth in this sector are not possible to collect or work

out, and hence such data are not maintained. The quantum of production of cloth in the handloom sector is estimated on the basis of civil deliveries of hank yarn. The estimated quantum of handloom cloth production during the last 3 years has been as below:—

(Million sq. mtr.)

Year	Total Production
1998-99	6792
1999-2000	7352
2000-2001	7472

(b) The financial assistance given by the Government to encourage the handloom industry during the last 3 years has been as below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount released
1998-99	124.66
1999-2000	112.20
2000-2001	129.50

(c) The Government of India has been implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom sector and the welfare of handloom weavers throughout the country including the tribal areas.